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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
FINANCE
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 20, 1987

OPA FILE Sen Roth
Leg

The Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

During the week of October 5th, the Senate passed H.R. 1777, The Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1988. Section 532 of that bill is an amendment which I introduced. It would apply to the foreign missions of East Bloc countries and Cuba in the United States, all the same restrictions that are applied to missions of the Soviet Union in this country.

On Wednesday, April 8, 1987, at your confirmation hearing before the Select Committee on Intelligence, I questioned you about a package of bills that Senator Dole and I had introduced. The first question I asked referred to the substance of the above-cited Section 532. Specifically, I referred to Soviet use of East Bloc surrogates to collect intelligence in this country.

Your reply -- at that time you were still Director of the FBI -- was that you were familiar with the purpose and intent of that legislation, and certainly supported it. You cited the recent expulsion of numerous Soviet spies, and noted that this proposal would undoubtedly increase the tasking responsibilities on Bloc hostile intelligence officers operating in this country. You further said you saw no reason why they should not be included within the same restrictions that apply to the Soviets.

The CIA, as I understand, opposes this provision restricting the movement of East Bloc officers in the U.S. for various reasons, in particular because it may foster reciprocal restrictions on our people in those countries.



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It is not my intention in any way to interfere with the ability of CIA to carry out its difficult mission in the denied areas. However, there remains the serious counterespionage problem in this country posed by these hostile intelligence collectors. Therefore, I would appreciate a response from you (from your unique perspective as the former FBI Director and now Director of CIA) discussing the pros and cons of Section 532. In particular, I would appreciate it if you could articulate the net balance to U.S. interests of applying these restrictions.

I regard this as an important matter which has not yet been settled, and which still has to be dealt with in the House-Senate Conference. Your views will be most helpful, and, of course, in the interests of security, should probably be in classified form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

William V. Roth, Jr.
U. S. Senate

WVR/rib